

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 23, 2007.

Claims 1, 4, 5, and 22-68 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 1, 22, and 24 stand rejected. Claims 35-68 are indicated to be allowable, and claims 4, 5, 23, and 25-34 are objected to by the Examiner. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

Double Patenting

Claims 1, 22, and 24 stand rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,857,487 in view of *Eppink, et al.* 6,494,272.

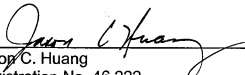
Applicant is submitting herewith a terminal disclaimer over U.S. Patent No. 6,857,487 to overcome the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicant has amended claim 1 for clarification. The amendment is not made for reasons related to patentability. Indeed, the double patenting rejection is traversed by the submission of the terminal disclaimer.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason C. Huang
Registration No. 46,222
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicants